

***Hackelia diffusa* (Dougl. ex Lehm.) Johnst.
var. *diffusa***

diffuse stickseed
Boraginaceae (Borage Family)

Hackelia diffusa* var. *diffusa
diffuse stickseed

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G4T3S2

General Description: Adapted from Gentry and Carr (1976): Perennial, 1 2/3 to 2 1/2 inches tall. Stems few, erect or ascending, internodes long near the base, short near midstem, the plant therefore appearing leafy near the middle. Pubescence strongly spreading, hirsute, becoming antrorsely appressed in the inflorescence. Radial leaves few to many, 5 to 9 inches long 1/2 to 1 inch wide, elliptic, petiolate for 1/3 their length, hirsute, all but the lowermost cauline leaves sessile, the lower ones 3 2/3 to 6 inches long, 1/2 to 2/3 inch wide, elliptic, becoming lanceolate or linear-lanceolate above, at mid-stem 2 1/2 to 4 inches long and 1/4 to 1/3 inch wide. Pedicel 1/4 to 1/3 inch long in fruit. Calyx 1/8 inch long, lanceolate or linear-lanceolate. Corolla limb blue or cream, with a yellowish throat, 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide. Fornices with appendages papillate-puberulent to short pilose, not always evidently emarginate. Anthers 1/16 inch long. Nutlets 1/8 inch long, ovate, dorsal surface rough, verrucose-hispidulous, the intramarginal prickles distinct, 10. Prominent marginal prickles distinct to their bases, 1/16 to 1/8 inch long, these alternating with 1-3 short barbs.

Identification Tips: *Hackelia diffusa* var. *diffusa* may be confused with *H. diffusa* var. *cottonii* which also occurs in the Columbia River Gorge but farther to the east. *H. diffusa* var. *cottonii* can be separated from var. *diffusa* by its much shorter, often strigose pubescence. *H. diffusa* var. *cottonii* rarely has any blue coloration in its typically smaller corolla and the nutlets are often stouter. The intramarginal prickles are shorter in var. *cottonii* than in var. *diffusa*. Plants intermediate to these two varieties can be found in the area between Hood River and The Dalles, a short distance but a large gradient in environmental conditions (Gentry and Carr 1976).

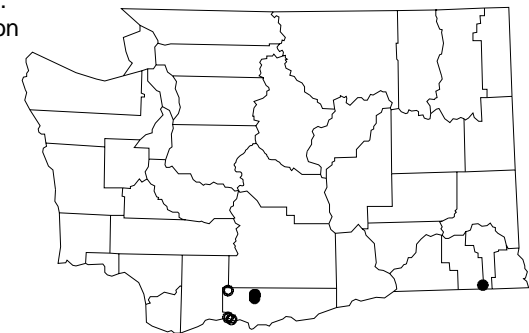
Phenology: Flowers from May through June.

Range: Occurs in the Columbia River Gorge of Oregon and Washington, from Troutdale to The Dalles and in the Klickitat and White Salmon River drainages of Washington. The taxon also occurs in the Thompson and Fraser River Canyons of British Columbia and has been reported from Columbia County, in the southeastern part of Washington.



©1959 University of Washington Press. Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish.

Known distribution of
Hackelia diffusa var.
diffusa in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Hackelia diffusa* var. *diffusa

diffuse stickseed



Hackelia diffusa* var. *diffusa

diffuse stickseed

Habitat: Shaded areas, cliffs, talus, wooded flats and slopes. Occurs with *Symphoricarpos albus*, *Philadelphus lewisii*, *Osmorhiza occidentalis*, *Acer glabrum*, *Fritillaria pudica*, and *Erysimum occidentale*. Elevation of populations in Washington is around 1000 feet.

Ecology: The taxon has been found growing on roadsides and other disturbed sites which seems to indicate the species may tolerate disturbance and is able to compete in a somewhat weedy environment.

State Status Comments: The small range and low number of known populations are the primary factors contributing to the taxon's status.

Inventory Needs: A systematic inventory of Klickitat County is needed. The reported occurrence in Columbia County should also be verified.

Threats and Management Concerns: Road construction and maintenance activities are the greatest threats to the known occurrences. Other threats to the species may include residential development, timber harvest, and grazing.

References:

Gentry, J.L. and R.L. Carr. 1976. A revision of the genus *Hackelia* (Boraginaceae) in North America, north of Mexico. Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 26: 121-227.

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 510 pp.